



Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Winnebago County



County characteristic

- 578 total sq. miles; 447 land, 131 water
- Lands: Level to gently rolling topography dominated by agriculture; broad expanses of lakes and adjacent marshes and dotted with mixed woodlots.
- Waters: 84,000 acres of surface water - the most of any Wisconsin County. The Winnebago System includes the "Pool Lakes" of Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan, along with portions of the Upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. The system also includes 3,000 acre Rush Lake - the largest prairie pothole east of the Mississippi.
- 158,500 residents live in Winnebago County
- Trends: The area is experiencing rapid residential growth as part of the Fox River Valley.

State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 9,000 acres of state land is open to hunting and fishing including wildlife and fisheries areas.

Locate DNR properties at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html

Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- 2 Wildlife Biologists; 1 Wildlife Technician
- 3 Fisheries Biologists; 2 Fisheries Technicians
- 3 Conservation Wardens
- 2 Customer Service Representatives
- Oshkosh office: Coughlin Center, 625 E. CTH Y
- Staff also serve portions of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, Green Lake, and Shawano Counties.



Lake Winnebago

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Establish and maintain grassland, woodland, wetland habitat for ducks, geese, pheasants, turkeys, deer, & other species.
- Established the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area to preserve and restore 38,600 acres of native grassland and 11,000 acres of wetlands in portions of Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Columbia, and Dodge Counties through land acquisition, habitat restoration, and partnerships with conservation groups.
- Control exotic and invasive species like purple loosestrife, buckthorn, wild parsnip, and boxelder to assure native habitat.
- Manage Winnebago System fisheries including lake sturgeon, walleye, white bass, northern pike, yellow perch and sauger.
- Work with the public to manage the county's fisheries and aquatic resources through advisory committees established for sturgeon, walleye and flathead catfish.



Wildlife Staff Goose Banding

Activities continued...

- Warden force regularly patrols public and private land for fish and wildlife violations.
- Manage DNR land. Post public hunting and access sites, conduct prescribed burns & manage wetlands water levels.
- Conduct wildlife population surveys, respond to wildlife damage/nuisance complaints & monitor diseases like CWD.
- Provide environmental educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups; and take part in the Pheasant Forever Learn-to-Hunt Program.

Winnebago County Conservation Snapshots

- 40** Boat Launch Sites
- 26** ALIS Agents Supported
- 6** Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration Stations
- 60** Stream Access Sites



County Success Stories

- The Rush Lake restoration (started in 2005) is an effort to return this prairie pothole back to its former status as one of Wisconsin's premier wetlands and waterfowl hunting areas.
- Since 1993, 2,000 acres of deepwater wetlands and associated fisheries have been protected & restored by constructing offshore breakwaters & carp barriers to protect aquatic habitat areas.
- Wardens made over 50 enforcement cases relating to overbagging walleye and sauger on the Lake Winnebago System, April - July 2004.
- Winnebago County is home to two wildlife projects to restore wild populations of pheasants: The Rat River Wildlife Area and the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area.

Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

These fish species have been stocked in County waters or the Winnebago system:

- 1,919 Brook Trout
- 1,554 Brown Trout
- 2,795 Rainbow Trout
- 11,544 Largemouth Bass
- 440,535 Great Lakes Spotted Musky
- 2,550,569 Sauger

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs; Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

Want to Learn More? Go to dnr.wi.gov/invest

March 2005